



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Mao and his supporters are making new threats to use the military against their enemies. We cannot now foresee the likely effect of this tactic, however, in view of continuing evidence that Mao and company do not have complete trust in the military leadership. The threats do suggest growing concern about the strength of the opposition.

2. South Vietnam

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3. North Vietnam

[redacted] the
North Vietnamese rice harvest last year
was unusually small--perhaps short as
much as 800,000 to a million tons. [redacted]

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All the same, the 1966 harvest was probably the lowest in several years and possibly the lowest ever under Communist rule. We expect that increased imports--from China, the Soviet bloc, or both--will make up the deficit.

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4. Indonesia

The anti-Sukarno campaign is accelerating. Formal action against the President is probably still some weeks away, but high officials are now speaking of it with increasing directness. Our embassy thinks Sukarno's position has so weakened that his complete removal would probably no longer provoke dangerous repercussions.

5. Mexico

Foreign Minister Carrillo Flores is taking a gloomy line toward the Western Hemisphere summit conference.

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This is an extension of President Diaz Ordaz' own strong feeling that the conference must produce concrete results.

6. Dominican Republic

Balaguer has further antagonized his political opponents by suddenly ordering a large number of them arrested. Those seized include leaders of the moderate left as well as known Communists. Balaguer's declared purpose was to foil an alleged conspiracy.

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We know of no such conspiracy and suspect Balaguer

could simply want to intimidate his opponents. The move, however, is more likely to unite them against the government.

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7. Nicaragua

Peace has at least temporarily been restored between the government and its electoral opposition, and preparations are going ahead for the elections on 5 February.

The principal opposition candidate having laid down his arms is apparently free to resume baby-kissing, but may now withdraw from the race with the charge that the whole thing is rigged against him. He has done so in two previous elections. The opposition may also try to provoke further disorders before election day.

We still feel that, despite all these dramatics, most Nicaraguans will happily cast their ballots for General Somoza on election day.

8. Italy

The eight-day visit by Soviet President Podgorny, which began today, underscores the continuing growth of Italian-Soviet economic exchanges. It may conclude with the signing of a consular convention. No political surprises are expected.

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